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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

FROM : Amconsul MUNICH DATE: February 25, 1965

SUBJECT : Lawyer Plans Appeal to Free Rudolph Hess

REF :

Nuernberg attorney and Bundestag CSU Deputy Dr. Alfred Seidl reportedly plans to file an appeal to free Hitler's former deputy, Rudolph Hess, on the grounds of insanity. Seidl was Hess's defense attorney at the Nuernberg war crimes trials.

The reason for the appeal appeared in a report published in Munich by a group of doctors and journalists called the Medical Public Relations Working Group. The report states that American and English psychiatrists were influenced politically when they declared Hess sane.

The report cites an article in the October 1964 issue of "The Archives of General Psychiatry" by University of California Professor Maurice N. Walsh. Walsh is said to have written that he examined Hess in Spandau prison in 1948 and found him suffering from latent schizophrenia, but declared him sane and capable of standing trial. Walsh wrote that he learned later that a British psychiatrist determined in 1941, when Hess made his spectacular landing in Scotland that Hess was a schizophrenic. According to Walsh, the British doctor's report made no mention of it because the doctor was advised by officials not to.

Walsh said he was advised by the chief psychiatrist at Spandau prison not to report Hess's mental illness because the Soviets would have reacted unfavorably at a time when tension was building between the U. S. and the Soviets.

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Paul B. Taylor
American Consul General

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Drafted by: POL:RCLewis:th 2-25-65

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:AStalder

Clearances:

EUR/GER Held by E. Williams 4/2/65